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Agenda item 8

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 16 March 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is with grave concern that I must draw your attention to the continuation and intensification of Israel's illegal, massive colonial settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with all of its negative consequences for the situation on the ground.

In this regard, we wish to place on record our total condemnation of the approval by Israel, the occupying Power, of the construction of hundreds of new settlement units in the so-called settlements of "Gush Etzion", "Maale Adumim", "Ariel" and "Kyriat Sefer" in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The continuation of this illegal, reckless and destructive colonization campaign reconfirms Israel's deliberate policy to breach international law and defy the global calls for the immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The persistence of such illegal actions is further destroying the contiguity, integrity and unity of the Palestinian land, further raising tensions, and pushing farther away from reality the goal of the two-State solution for peace.

It should be noted that this declaration to “build more settlements” was made by the Israeli government in specific response to the crime perpetrated against an Israeli settler family on Friday, 11 March 2011. According to Israeli officials, this decision was intended as “a stern political message to Palestinians”. This represents only one of the many provocative, inflammatory statements made by Israeli officials in this connection. We completely reject such incendiary statements, which constitute incitement, and reject the illogic and illegal measures being pursued by the Israeli government in the wake of this tragedy. The occupying Power must not be allowed to use such pretexts to further violate international law and intensify its repressive measures against the entire Palestinian population under its occupation.

Moreover, it must be emphasized that this crime has been totally condemned by the Palestinian leadership, including by President Mahmoud Abbas, who clearly

stressed in an official statement published and broadcast in the media his "rejection and condemnation of all acts of violence against civilians whatever the reasons and whoever the perpetrators". Israel's continued impunity, acting as a State above the law and demonstrating contempt for the law and for those who adhere to it and call for its respect, must be completely rejected by the international community for it threatens to further destabilize the situation on the ground and undermines any chance for credible negotiations to be resumed towards the achievement of a peaceful and just solution that will bring peace and security for both Palestinian and Israeli citizens.

In addition to these illegal plans to construct and expand more settlements, Israeli occupying forces have been raiding Palestinian villages in the vicinity of the illegal settlement where the deadly incident occurred, rounding up males between the ages of 18 and 40 to report for questioning. At least 20 Palestinians have been illegally arrested by the occupying forces as a result of these round-ups. In this regard, it must be stressed that, although the attacker or attackers who perpetrated the killings are unknown, the occupying Power, clearly operating on a presumption of guilt, is deliberately punishing and disrupting the lives of thousands of Palestinian civilians.

At the same time, over the past few days illegal Israeli settlers have stepped up acts of violence and terrorism against Palestinian civilians and their properties throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Settlers have thrown rocks at vehicles on a main road linking the cities of Nablus and Ramallah and set several cars on fire in the Ramallah area and in Qalqilya. In addition, extremist settlers wearing white masks have entered villages harassing and intimidating Palestinian civilians, including children, causing fear and panic to spread among the population. As usual, these illegal actions are being perpetrated in full view of the occupying forces, who continue to fail to hold settlers accountable for their crimes. The occupying Power must be called upon to uphold its responsibility towards the Palestinian population in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and should act immediately to prevent further attacks by settlers, whose illegal presence it has funded, protected and encouraged.

We reiterate that all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constitute grave breaches under international law and a grave danger to the viability of the two-State solution. The international community, including the Security Council, must act in unison to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith its construction and expansion of settlements as well as the Wall and all other related infrastructure. Moreover, it must be unwavering in its demand that the occupying Power abide by its obligations under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. This is imperative for salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, which the international community unanimously agrees must be achieved this year.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 385 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 March 2011 (A/ES-10/512-S/2011/113), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State

terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
23 March 2011

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**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Sixty-sixth year****Identical letters dated 22 March 2011 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

As we write this letter, Palestinian civilians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are enduring yet another extremely violent wave of State-sponsored aggression and militia attacks. Since our last correspondence on 16 March 2011 (A/ES-10/513-S/2011/144), Israeli settlers have further escalated their campaign of terror against Palestinian civilians and their villages across the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, has stepped up its attacks against the besieged Gaza Strip, recently launching the most aggressive aerial bombardment campaign against Gaza since the brutal Israeli military aggression two years ago.

Over the past week, Israeli forces have stepped up the frequency and depth of their incursions into the Gaza Strip. As a result, the Al-Hilu family in Gaza is coping with unimaginable grief and shock caused by the latest barrage of Israeli artillery that targeted a home in the Al-Shoja'iyya neighbourhood east of Gaza City and a nearby soccer field in which children were playing, killing five Palestinian civilians. The dead include 11-year-old Mohammad Jihad Al-Hilu and 16-year-old Yasser Ahed Al-Hilu and 50-year-old Yasser Hamed Al-Hilu. Over a dozen other civilians were also injured in the attack, including four children, some critically. Today, another four Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike in the Al-Zeitoun neighbourhood south-east of Gaza.

While the occupying Power employs its military might to sow death and destruction among Palestinians, its support and incitement also continue for the escalating terrorist attacks and intimidation by armed Israeli settler militias against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, on Monday, 21 March 2011, an Israeli settler fired at residents of Beit Ummar, south of Al-Khalil (Hebron), while Israeli occupying forces stationed in the village stood idly by and watched. That attack resulted in the critical injury of 59-year-old Mohammad Abu Safieh and the injury of Iyad Al-Zaaqiq. Earlier yesterday, settlers stabbed and wounded another Palestinian civilian in Al-Khalil (Hebron). Simultaneously, this terrorist campaign, which continues with impunity,



has aimed at destroying Palestinian livelihoods. In this regard, today Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of "Itamar" ravaged fields in the nearby village of Aqraba, uprooting and damaging recently planted tree saplings and destroying irrigation water tanks.

This escalation of settler attacks is clearly organized and deliberate and constitutes the implementation of earlier threats made by the settlers. These extremist settlers have received encouragement from Israeli political figures and government officials, who have launched a campaign of racist incitement against Palestinians, and the tacit support of the Israeli Government, whose armed forces guard these settler militias as they commit their crimes against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population.

We have repeatedly brought to your attention the grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, and the settlers it has illegally and deliberately transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. These attacks and campaigns of terror pose a direct threat to the goals set by the international community with regard to reaching a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the region. We recall in this regard the international consensus on the illegality of Israeli settlements and the detrimental effect of their continued construction and expansion on the prospects for realizing peace and security in the region.

The international community, represented by the United Nations, has a direct legal and moral responsibility to safeguard the protection of Palestinian civilians as well as to ensure that all parties adhere to their responsibilities, as outlined in relevant United Nations resolutions. The Security Council, in specific, must uphold its duties in this regard. It is imperative for the international community to assume its responsibilities and, inter alia, ensure that Palestinian civilians are granted the protection accorded to all civilians in situations of armed conflict. In this regard, and given the ongoing escalation, the provision of international protection to Palestinian civilians is an issue of crucial importance that should be seriously considered, supported and facilitated before the violence escalates any further, with all its grave consequences.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 386 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 March 2011 (A/ES-10/513-S/2011/144), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
6 April 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East
Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

**Identical letters dated 5 April 2011 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am compelled to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the international community to the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of its illegal colonization campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and particularly its ongoing illegal attempts to change the reality on the ground in Occupied East Jerusalem. Day in and day out, Israel has continued to pursue its destructive colonization campaign through the confiscation of Palestinian land, the expansion of settlements and settlement infrastructure, the transfer of Israeli settlers, construction of the Wall and other such destructive measures, including the demolition of more Palestinian homes, which, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), reached a record high in March for the third consecutive month, in its attempt to de facto annex more Palestinian land.

Accordingly, I wish to draw your attention to the most recent Israeli violation in regard to its illegal colonization of Palestinian land. On Monday, 4 April 2011, Israel, the occupying Power, approved the construction of 942 settlement units in the so-called settlement of Gilo, in Occupied East Jerusalem. The continuation of this illegal, reckless and destructive colonization campaign once again confirms Israel's deliberate intent to defy international law and the unequivocal calls of the international community for the immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, we regret to reiterate that continued international inaction has clearly emboldened Israel's defiance and intransigence.

The consequences of such illegal and provocative colonization Israeli practices have become abundantly clear. The contiguity, integrity and viability of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of the future State of Palestine, is being gravely undermined; Palestinian lives and rights are being



detrimentally impacted, daily and grossly; and the prospects for realizing the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders are being deliberately sabotaged.

Moreover, I regret to inform you that Israeli settler terror, violence, harassment and intimidation against the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have intensified. Despicable and destructive acts against Palestinian civilians and their properties have continued unabated, such as the razing of Palestinian agricultural land, the destruction of and damage to Palestinian homes and property, the theft of olive trees, the uprooting of tree saplings, the destruction of water and sewage pipes, and attacks causing severe bodily harm to Palestinian civilians. Such lawlessness and impunity have clearly been fostered and fuelled by the military, financial and physical reinforcements and incentives provided to the settlers by the Israeli government, including its absolute failure to hold the settlers accountable for their crimes.

I am also compelled to draw your attention to the continuing condemnable use of excessive and lethal force by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This has included indiscriminate force against innocent civilians, as well as extrajudicial killings, deliberately and callously carried out by the Israeli occupying forces.

In this connection, today, Tuesday, 5 April 2011, adding to Israel's long list of violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, the occupying forces shelled an area in Beit Lahiya, in the north of the besieged Gaza Strip, killing Mohammed Shahla and injuring many others who were in the vicinity of the brutal attack. This latest killing came on the heels of yet another barbaric attack against the Palestinian people in Gaza that took place on Saturday, 2 April 2011, in which Israeli occupying forces carried out an extrajudicial assassination, killing three Palestinians who were driving in a car between the town of Khan Yunis and Deir Al-Balah refugee camp, also in the Gaza Strip. Indeed, such excessive and condemnable aggression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, serves only to further increase tensions on the ground.

Israel must respect its obligations as an occupying Power under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and cease immediately with all of its unlawful actions which are totally contrary to and incompatible with the realization of peace. We call upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to give due attention to the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure that timely measures and action be undertaken to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt completely all of its illegal and aggressive policies against the Palestinian people and their land, including settlement expansion and settler violence, extrajudicial executions, excessive and lethal force against Palestinians, home demolitions and finally commit to the pursuit of peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 387 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 March 2011 (A/ES-10/514-S/2011/173), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State

terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(Signed) Riyad Mansour
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
11 April 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Sixty-sixth year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 8 April 2011 from the Permanent Observer
of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I write to you with grave concern regarding the intensification of military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip. Thirteen Palestinian civilians, including women, have been killed and dozens more have been injured by a series of Israeli air strikes in addition to artillery fire against the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours. Among the innocent civilians brutally murdered by the occupying Power were a mother and her daughter.

In the light of the dangerous deterioration of the situation and escalation of tensions, the Palestinian leadership appeals to the international community to call on Israel to cease its military attacks against the Gaza Strip, to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to cease forthwith all attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and all forms of military reprisals and collective punishment against them. This is imperative to stop the bloodshed and to avert a return to the vicious cycle of violence that has consumed so many innocent lives and wrought vast destruction and devastation on our people.

Yesterday, 7 April, military air strikes were launched by the Israeli occupying forces against the Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza City areas of the Gaza Strip, killing five Palestinians. Among those killed was a 50-year-old man, Mahmoud Al-Manasra, who died after shells were fired near his home in the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood of Gaza City. Five other civilians, including a young child, were also injured in the attack. In another military attack, the occupying forces killed four Palestinians, Salah Al-Tarabeen, age 38, Mus'ab Al-Sufi, age 18, Muhammad Al-Mahmoum, age 25, and Khaled Al-Dubari, age 21.

The occupying Power's military attacks continued today, being carried out deliberately and with indiscriminate and excessive force, in accordance with the recent declarations made by Israeli leaders regarding their intentions to continue to assault the Gaza Strip. Thus far today, Israeli military strikes in and around Gaza City, Rafah and Khan Younis have killed six more Palestinians and injured dozens



more. In these attacks, the occupying forces struck a home and killed a woman, Najah Qudaih, age 45, and her daughter, Nidal Qudaih, age 21, injured another daughter and three more civilians. Talal Abu Taha, age 55, was killed in yet another air strike, while an assault against the town of Khuza'a resulted in the killing of two Palestinian men, Abdallah Al-Qarra and Mo'taz Abu Jamei. Also today, the occupying forces killed Ra'ed Shehada, age 27, in Beit Lahiya, as well as Ahmed Ghorab, age 31, and Mahmoud Wa'el Al-Jaru in Shuja'iyya in Gaza City.

The Palestinian leadership condemns these brutal and unlawful military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and calls for a halt to all acts of Israeli aggression and terror against our people. In this regard, it must be recalled that the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are entitled to protection under international humanitarian law and they must not continue to be denied this protection and to be subjected to the merciless assaults and systematic human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power with impunity. In this connection, we reiterate the demand for the immediate and complete lifting of the inhumane, illegal and immoral blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip for nearly four years now, which amounts to the collective punishment of 1.5 million people.

At the same time, we are compelled to underscore once again the critical situation on the ground in the West Bank due to the continuation and escalation of other illegal Israeli policies and practices. In particular, Israel's illegal and aggressive colonization campaign continues apace. In addition to the recent provocative declaration of the intention to construct more illegal settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli occupying forces have in recent days carried out the destruction of more Palestinian property and land. Homes, newly paved roads, farm buildings and lighting infrastructure were destroyed by Israeli bulldozers in the village of Al-Aqaba in the Tubas area in the northern Jordan Valley yesterday, 7 April. The head of the village Council has alarmingly indicated that the occupying Power has served the village in recent years with numerous demolition orders, leaving 95 per cent of the village homes subject to demolition. Moreover, extremist settlers continue to rampage through the Occupied Palestinian Territory and have caused destruction to more Palestinian agricultural land in an area south of Al-Khalil (Hebron).

The occupying Power also continues to arrest and detain Palestinian civilians, including women, violating their human rights and subjecting them to severe intimidation and humiliation. In this regard, we must draw your attention to a recent raid by the Israeli occupying forces on the village of Awarta, east of Nablus in the northern West Bank, a village that has been subjected to numerous raids in recent weeks in connection with Israeli interrogations and investigations regarding the killing of a family in a nearby settlement. On Thursday, 7 April, hundreds of Israeli troops entered the village shortly after midnight, raiding homes and rounding up dozens of men and women in the darkness of the night. At least 100 Palestinian women, some elderly, were arrested and forced into a camp, where soldiers subjected them to questioning, fingerprinting and DNA testing. This incident has further deepened the trauma and fear that prevails among the Palestinian civilian population as a result of such systematic harassment, intimidation, use of force and collective punishment carried out by the occupying Power.

In the light of the gravity of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip at present, the Palestinian leadership calls on the international community to act with urgency to prevent the slaughter of more innocent civilians and to prevent the further deterioration of this already tense and volatile situation. The international community must assume its responsibilities under international law to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, respects all of its obligations under the law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and relevant United Nations resolutions. It should not absolve Israel of these obligations by permitting such military attacks, the killing and injury of innocent civilians, the destruction of property, the colonization of the Palestinian land and the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinian civilians to be perpetrated with total impunity and without accountability. The Security Council in particular is urged to act to uphold its own resolutions in this regard and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 388 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 April 2011 (A/ES-10/515-S/2011/224) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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